

University of Colombo School of Computing

UCSC Now

Dr. A R Weerasinghe

In 2006, University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) celebrates 21 years of Computing at University of Colombo. The UCSC initiated a new kind of ICT degree in consultation with the industry through the facilitation of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce during the year. This new BICT degree programme attempts to address the issue of a lack of ICT graduates being more real world focused than merely technically oriented. Programmes in Information Systems launched in 2005 accommodate 80 students from all 4 A/L streams, Science, Maths, Commerce and Arts.

During 2005 the UCSC added to its international portfolio by conducting two Regional Training Programmes in the Design, Installation, Administration and Management of Network Systems with funding from the Swedish International Development Agency, Sida. Participants from 10 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America spent 6 weeks at the UCSC for each of these programmes. In addition to this, the UCSC's Advanced Digital Media Technology Centre (ADMTCC) conducted two In-Country Training Programmes in eLearning for universities and other training institutions of Sri Lanka and an International programme referred to as the Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) in 2006.

eLearning continued to be a major focus at the UCSC. An EU-AsiaLink project in eLearning partnered by UCSC with the IT University of Sweden and the Delft University of Technology of the Netherlands commenced in November 2005. The aim of this Asia eBIT project is initially to convert the current Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) external degree from a distant mode programme to one fully supported through electronic mediation, and then to replicate the lessons learned in other eLearning degree



Head Table at the Award Ceremony of the Regional Third Country Training Program (TCTP) on eLearning Technology conducted by the UCSC in October 2006.

programmes in the region. The Asia eBIT project also relies heavily on manpower to be funded by the National eLearning Centre project approved by Sida for funding in 2006.

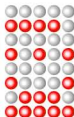
During the year, the UCSC also consolidated its research initiative through active participation in proposal writing, engagement in on-going projects and publishing in international and regional forums. Two new research projects in Geographical Information Systems based Disaster Management, and Wireless Adhoc Sensor Networks were commenced with US National Science Foundation and Swedish Sida/SPIDER funding during the year. IDRC of Canada also funded three research projects in e-Learning – one in which the UCSC acts as the Lead Partner while the other two in which it collaborates with Indian and Pakistani project leaders. In addition to this, the PAN Localization project received assurance of an extension by 12 months by the IDRC of Canada.

Among the research groups currently active at the UCSC, the Language Technology Research Group, the GRID Computing Group, the Geographical Information Systems Group and the Wireless and Sensor Network Group all had international visitors and active research collaboration during the year.

In all, 2005 turned out to be a good year for the UCSC particularly owing to the healthy state of generated income and the increased research projects undertaken by the faculty.

We were the First to..

- Include Computer Education in the University curriculum – 1967
- Computerize Election results in the region – 1982
- Establish a Department dedicated to Computer Science – 1985
- Establish a postgraduate training institute (ICT) in IT – 1987
- Commence an undergraduate special degree in Computer Science – 1989
- Launch a postgraduate degree in Computing in Sri Lanka – 1987
- Start an M.Sc degree in Computer Science in Sri Lanka – 1989
- Setup ICT Consultancy arm (CSC) within a University – 1990
- Receive international accreditation for a CS degree – from British Computer Society (BCS) – 1992
- Receive the JICA president's Award for International Co-operation – 1999
- Be called to offer ICT training to other countries by international donors (JICA) – 1992
- University to establish Professorship in CS – 1996
- Offer an external degree in IT (BIT) – 2000
- Initiate moves to hold an annual International conference (IITC) – 2000
- Provide Sinhala Broadcasts on Radio/TV – 2000
- Introduce a Masters program for CS/IT graduates – 2002
- Be called to offer international training to other countries by Sida – 2002
- Incorporate online results & learning component (BIT) in a degree – 2001
- Introduce an Information Systems focused degree (BICT) – 2005
- Have a postgraduate qualified staff strength of over 25 in ICT with over 15 PhDs



Looking back at the 21 year Journey

Prof. V K Samaranyake

The 21 years that the UCSC is now celebrating have been full of significant events which will be highlighted during the celebrations. However, I would like to move back and look at the previous 21 years from 1964 to 1985. I first used a computer for my postgraduate research at the University of London in 1964. On my return to the country in 1966, having realized the importance of computing for Sri Lanka, I began teaching both staff and students computer programming. This was no easy task as these were the days of mainframes which the University could not afford. Fortunately, the State Engineering Corporations Chairman, Dr. A.N.S. Kulasinghe allowed us free computer time. Later the Department of Census and Statistics also gave us free computer time. However we needed to wait days to obtain our output as the method available was that of batch processing using punch cards.



In 1968, the Senate of the University allowed us to conduct external courses and use the funds so generated for development work. This led to the establishment of the Statistical Consultancy and Data Processing Service SCADPS. The next major development was the Colombo Reading Link. Dr. Roger Stern arrived in Sri Lanka to fill a void in Statistics teaching in the early seventies, on a request made by the Mathematics department of UOC. When he arrived, there was no Head and it was left to him to study the needs while waiting for a head to be appointed. I assumed duties as Head of the department of Mathematics in Jan 1974 and thus began a long partnership that lasted almost 20 years between Reading and Colombo. Dr. Stern launched several programs with the British



Govt. funding a link with his own dept. In Reading he also identified the importance of Computing for statistics as well as disciplines including health and agriculture. The Asian Regional Course on Microprocessors and the International Course on Statistics and Computer Applications in Agriculture organized by the Statistical Unit in 1984 are good examples of the progress just prior to the establishment of DSCS 21 years ago.

In 1985, the University Grants Commission approved the setting up of Computer Science departments in Colombo, Peradeniya and Moratuwa, following the initiative taken by then Secretary of Higher Education and Chairman, UGC the late Prof. Stanley Kalpage. The Reeves Report of 1984 resulted in the introduction of Computer Studies to almost all universities that existed then and more specialized teaching at the above three departments. In his report Prof. Reeves identified the computer unit at Colombo as the only one that was then ready to become a fully fledged Computing Department.

This department produced the first ever Computer Science graduates in Sri Lanka in 1992. It is noteworthy that these pioneering batches are in positions of importance in the ICT field today with some on the academic staff of UCSC and several involved in the 21 year celebrations.

The parallel development of obtaining Japanese Government assistance for developing ICT education for the first time in Sri Lanka happened in 1987 with the establishment of the Institute of Computer Technology (ICT) as a result of the Japanese Government support. Although these two institutions (DSCS&ICT) developed separately, there was much synergy between them. Later on the DSCS split in to two

independent departments of Computer Science and Statistics. Year 2002 brought the merger of the DCS and ICT to form the UCSC. Thus it is the UCSC that is celebrating the 21st anniversary.

After 21 years, the UCSC is now in a very strong position to provide the support and leadership in Computer Science and applications to the country. With its well qualified and competent staff it is also in a position to be a leading Research and Development Centre. As has been the tradition from the inception, UCSC is not merely a training centre nor is it a ivory tower academic institution. It uses its strength in manpower, equipment and other facilities and its well earned status as an independent authority on many aspects of ICT for the benefit of all, be it government, private sector, the non governmental sector and the academia. Its involvement in the release of election results for the last 24 year, its training and management of the Sri Lankan teams to the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), its management of the international IT Conference (IITC), its unique innovation of the BIT external degree, its pioneering work in local language support and in e-learning are just a few illustrations. Reflecting on these past events of not 21 years but two periods of 21, I believe that all of us who contributed towards these developments can honestly feel proud of our efforts towards the Human Resource Development of ICT in Sri Lanka.



ARE YOU THERE?

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UCSC Alumni!

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www.ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/alumni

Please contact

alumni@ucsc.cmb.ac.lk
for further details

All past IT students of University of Colombo who have successfully completed the BSc(Comp.Sc), Msc(Comp.Sc), Computer Science(Special), BICT, BIT & PG Diploma(FT/PT) @ ICT are eligible to join

The e-Learning Centre (e-LC) of UCSC started its services initially by focusing its external students of BIT program through a learning management system (LMS) called "Theducation". First, the syllabus of each subject module was revised to highlight the learning objectives, new subject areas and to include the references

of supporting materials. Based on the structure of the syllabus, an online assessment was given to increase the student confidence before the written exams at the end of the semester. The qualifying questions are randomized using a question bank to minimize malpractices as well as to increase number of their revision rounds. Students must pass two qualifying question sets to take an individual assignment which is an essay type and/or structured questions, and they must upload their individual submissions for the assignment in the specified format before the given deadline. Once the students submit

the individual assignment, they will be randomly grouped by the e-LC staff to discuss and submit a most suitable answer to the assignment for the whole group. The idea behind this mechanism is to promote online

collaboration among students. The students and respective instructors are provided with a special facility called "group forum", which is dedicated to that specific group to do the discussions about their group submission.

In 2005, eLC started to expand its e-learning services to all its undergraduates and the postgraduate students and open source product called Moodle was selected as the learning management system. Moodle was selected after evaluating several commercial and open source products according to requirements of the UCSC.

The vision of the eLC is to become a national e-learning center (NeLC) which provides its service to all Sri Lankan one day. It is planning to achieve this objective first by expanding the e-learning service to make a fully-fledged distance learning program called eBIT. In this project, teaching, learning and assessments will be completely done through a learning management system irrespective of location, time and phase which will help a large number of students all over Sri Lanka to have access to same quality of education.

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Taking into consideration the job opportunities that exist for ICT graduates in Sri Lanka & overseas, the UCSC took the initiative to launch the External Degree (BIT) program leading to the award of Degree of Bachelor of Information Technology (External) - BIT.

The UCSC having the most advanced training resources and experience in Sri Lanka in the field of ICT training conducts the Degree of Bachelor of Information Technology (External) program. The UCSC conducts examinations leading to the first-ever External Degree in IT in Sri Lanka. The University of Colombo will award the degree.

UCSC provides a well-defined detailed syllabus that would help to lay a solid foundation on which, a student can build his career in ICT. The syllabi will be constantly updated to meet the industry requirements. In the year 2003, E-learning was introduced to the Year 1 BIT students through a Learning Management System (LMS). This was possible through assistance given by SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency). LMS assists the students in learning through self-evaluating quizzes, collaborative learning using group assignments etc. Further support is given to BIT students by the regular TV programme telecast over TV Lanka. Recommended text books have been made available in many public libraries throughout the country.

The expertise of more than 20 Ph.Ds, 05 M.Phils, 20 M.ScS and 03 MBAs drawn from the University of Colombo, other Sri Lankan Universities and ICT industry are associated with the programme, which makes the BIT a first in Sri Lanka to benefit from such expertise.

The BIT @ UCSC is designed to produce qualified ICT professionals, set professional standards and encourage students to obtain skills in commercial ICT applications, enable those who could not enter the university to read for a degree in ICT due to severe competition to work towards obtaining such a degree and give an opportunity to those non-graduates already working in ICT to obtain a formal qualification in ICT through self-study.

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BIT

The second BIT (External) Degree graduation ceremony held at the BMICH in 2005





Featured Articles

WiMAX Revealed

Mr. Hakim A Usoof

The big harp about WiMAX the "WiFi killer" would be dampened somewhat with the revealing of its real capabilities. Many analyst state that the success of WiMAX may be at jeopardy due to the simple fact that WiMAX lacks a "killer app", even with speculations that WiMAX would replace existing ADSL, WiFi and 3G services. Furthermore WiMAX suffers all inherent problems of wireless communication.

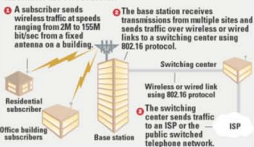
Even though the WiMAX specification boasts of 70Mbps over a 50 kilometer radius, scientist say it is more likely that it would be around 10Mbps to 20Mbps over a short distance of around 6 to 10 kilometers using an external antenna and with line of sight. One

WiMAX as a supplementary technology for 2,000 WiFi access points across its 933 acre campus. Another encouraging scenario is the "Rosdale 2" (RD2) of Intel. Like "Centrino" for WiFi, Intel has already drawn up specifications to develop a RD2 for WiMAX for notebooks and minicomputers. It is said that moving RD2 to handhelds might be

HOW IT WORKS

802.16

IEEE 802.16 standards define how wireless traffic will move between subscribers and core networks.



Source : www.howstuffworks.com

Distance from base station (km)	Scenario	Speed (Mbps)
1.2	indoors (no direct line of sight)	2 down / 2 up
1.2	with external antenna	10 down / 9 up
6	with external antenna	6 down / 4 up
varying	Driving with an indoor antenna	5 down / 5 up

Tests carried out in UK (<http://www.itwire.com.au/content/view/5323/127/>)

reason for this is that like all wireless communication methods, WiMAX too is greatly affected by terrain. While rock faces and water bodies act as good reflectors, greenery and large buildings hinder the progress of WiMAX signals. Another reason is the high density of usage with the coverage area also restricts the speed and bandwidth of WiMAX. One more contributory factor comes from within the WiMAX specification, which is that WiMAX is not fully duplex and its largest channel is 20MHz.

But all is not bad news, with encouraging scenarios like the University of Wisconsin, Madison, said that they would be considering

sometime later. It is an important fact to note that RD2 supports both 802.16d (fixed version) and 802.16e (mobile version). Another important incident which provides encouragement was that WiMAX Telecom Group, a multinational operator of WiMax in Europe, set a new record by transmitting live video of the World Sailing Championships in Austria up to a range of 40 kilometers. This operator which has branches in Switzerland, Austria, Slovakia and Croatia hopes to provide Internet and VoIP services for ships at sea within a 40 kilometer radius.

In spite of WiMAX not having a "killer app" only time will tell whether WiMAX will succeed in becoming the leader or will emerging technologies like HSDPA get the better of WiMAX.

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Applications of Wireless Ad hoc and Sensor Networks

Dr. T N Kasun De Zoysa

Wireless Ad hoc and Sensor Networks (WASNs) are most commonly referred to as wireless interconnections of a large number of sensor nodes, communicating without any pre-existing infrastructure. WASN technologies will have huge influence on many civilian and military applications, including for example national security, transportation systems, healthcare and environmental monitoring. WASNs have received tremendous attention from both academia and industry worldwide, but none of the Sri Lankan universities or institutes can provide necessary WASN education or Research and Development (R&D) resources. Known as a leader in applied computer research and education, UCSC will together with the technical expertise provided by Ericsson build a national R&D and education centre for WASN. The project is financed by the Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions (SPIDER) and the main objectives are to:

- Setup a R&D centre for WASN
- Conduct applied research specially in environmental monitoring and health care
- Develop WASN applications to solve real-life problems in Sri Lanka
- Enhance the WASN education in Sri Lanka

Future R&D activities will be done in collaboration with different departments at university of Colombo and other institutes and companies. One meeting was held with the zoology department. Several different areas were discussed, such as tracking bats as well as wild elephants. Additional meetings were held with potential external customers to enable future projects in parallel with the SPIDER project.

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Karma and rebirth are familiar concepts to most of us in the Eastern hemisphere and forms the cornerstone of Hinduism and Buddhism. Rebirth or re-becoming assumes a continuum of life followed by death and life again, ad infinitum. In this continuum, 'the self' experiences the reactions for its karma and generates new karma on the fly. Such accumulation of karma is said to be caused by 'ignorance', i.e., inability to grasp the way the things are. Though Buddhism denies the existence of a self, it is a convenient metaphor for an ever changing life flux, quite similar to the wave-particle duality in light. The reaping of karmic reactions too has a physical analogue in the form of the third law of dynamics in Newtonian mechanics, which says that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. That is, what you experience is what you have caused to the environment, or to your immediate neighbours, in the past or in the present. Also, the experience is conditional on the correct timing, that is karma will yield results when the conditions are ripe. Two social observations supporting this karmic interaction can be stated in the following way. You won't be killing mosquitoes if you were born in a cooler climate but in our part of the world it is an inevitable fact of life. Here, you are more liable to create bad karma because of the surroundings in which you exist. A child is born to you who brings disrepute to you: it is not only his problem but yours too.

If as propounded, rebirth is karma driven, and karma is a natural law (e.g., five laws of nature or *nyaya dharma*), we can be safe in applying a computational tool that has been used to model nature, recently, to model rebirth. This is quite a drastic statement to make, but as all good models in the physical world, will be shown to work within defined limitations. There is however, rebirth of a form which is not karma driven. Jacob Goldenberg and others have shown that innovations too are reborn, or rather ideas refuse to die. A simple example of this is the fashion industry. Again, we see the concept of rebirth as a social phenomenon and, in life and death it is in fact a natural phenomenon as well.

Steven Wolfram, the author of *Mathematica*, and of 'New Kind of Science' has shown in his book that almost all the complex behaviours of natural processes can be modeled by cellular automata. That is, simple neighbour interactions in a 2-D grid for example will lead to emerging complex behaviours. Fractals and Lindenmeyer systems too have been used in modeling such emerging complex behaviours and chaos in particular.

In typical cellular automata, cells evolve from a given initial distribution without rebirth, and is shown to lead to complex evolutionary patterns, where Conway's game of life is one of the early examples.

This leads us to think that it is possible to model rebirth using cells that would mutually interact in accumulating and dissipating karma based on their neighboring cells' karmic levels and die and are reborn at 'suitable' locations fitting their karmic levels. Finding the optimal position to fit the reborn cell is a NP hard problem for which greedy sub optimal solutions exist. Such an evolution is bound to exhibit a cyclic pattern in common with all natural processes. Though this view point may raise objections in trying to propose a scientific basis for a religious concept, the innate curiosity of observing equivalences in natural processes is hard to resist. I hope the reader would agree with me at least on that point.

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International Workshop on Grid Computing

The UCSC in collaboration with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, ICTP, Trieste and Uppsala University, Sweden will be holding a 2-day workshop on "Grid Computing" in December 2006 at the UCSC. The Workshop is targeted towards scientists & engineers involved in high performance Computing related applications in Physics, Chemistry, Bio-informatics, Computer Science etc. Resource persons will be coming from ICTP & Uppsala University and participants are expected from National Universities and research institutions, and other international participants.

Topics covered

- GRID Middleware
- GRID Resource Management
- GRID Data Management and Security
- Strategies for Porting Scientific Codes on the GRID and Applications in high performance Computing

The world of eBusiness is flourishing in the western world with not only large multinational companies but Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) focusing on eBusiness as their corporate strategy to gain competitive advantage. Many SMEs in the manufacturing sector are collectively working together using the synergy to enhance their capabilities to grow in the business world. Many SMEs have failed in eTransforming due to rapid development of web based systems without incorporating business strategies and unsuccessfully dealing with change management.

A tried and tested model in eBusiness Transformation suggests that an iterative step by step approach need to be adopted by SMEs in order to successfully eTransform. The model suggests an Environmental Analysis as the first step to understand the Global IT and Business trends and the company's strategic situation. The next step is to develop eBusiness goals and strategies to gain competitive advantage in the market based on the strengths identified in stage one.

Checking the e Readiness of the company is the 3rd step in order to identify major barriers and issues related to change management. Following a proper eTransformation roadmap to identify a step by step path is crucial at this stage which leads to an iterative eTransformation methodology in order to reengineer the business process and to implement the proposed web based systems. One of the key issues at this stage is to provide the proper e-system for sustainability through proper IT policies, maintenance, contracts and security measures. Finally, the stage that is most important in the transformation process is the management of change in an evolutionary manner. This includes changes in structure, systems, style, strategies, staff, skills and value systems of the business.

This approach which is being used by SMEs has proved to be very effective to SMEs who further work collaboratively to enhance their capabilities to gain sustainable competitive advantage in the global market.

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ICT in Sri Lanka

Prof. V K Samaranayake

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is today an essential component of Sri Lanka's development infrastructure. The ICT industry, mainly software and ICT services, is one of the potential economic growth sectors that would provide many opportunities to the talent in the country. Equally important is the fact that ICT applications and ICT based services have a major role to play in the overall development of the country and its people. Finally Human Resource development in the area of ICT is a requirement for entry in to many professions of high demand both internationally and locally.

In order to achieve best results from this opportunity brought about by ICT, several requirements need to be met. Awareness of the potential of ICT and its many diverse uses, the citizens ability to benefit, the availability of the infrastructure, the creation of the necessary workforce, appropriate regulatory and legal environment, affordability and ease of use are some.

Two years back the IT literacy of Sri Lanka was just below 10% with a concentration in the western province. This seems to have increased since then but we need to target a very much higher level. The communications infrastructure that was a major factor retarding the growth of ICT in the country has shown much improvement in the recent past, mainly due to deregulation and consequent competition. There is much more to be desired regarding access and affordability, as the benefits of ICT must be for all and not merely to the urban high income sector.

The creation of a large workforce proficient in ICT will assist in developing our software and ICT services industry while also promoting more competitive services locally. This in turn requires a rapid expansion of ICT education, particularly at tertiary level. Here again, it is important to recognize the importance of using ICT for education, which will strengthen and

expand the scope of education while also introducing ICT to those who specialize in disciplines other than ICT. The future workforce be they professionals or support staff will all require the ability to use ICT for their own work.

There is no way ICT can be introduced to the country as a whole unless it is available in the local languages and in all parts of the country at affordable costs.

The pioneering work initiated by the Council for Information technology CINTEC way back in the mid eighties together with the introduction of Computer Studies to all universities by the UGC at about the same time supported by their respective successors over the last two decades, are now showing results. In this context, the efforts of the UCSC and its predecessors too need to be recognized. The BIT external degree program, the e-Learning Centre and the Localisation Laboratory are good examples.

The e- Sri Lanka program of the ICT Agency initiated in 2003 received much strength from H.E. President Mahinda Rajapakse when it came under his purview, thus receiving the highest political support for its wide ranging suite of programs, all devoted to the use of ICT for development. The 1000 Nenasala Telecentre program has already provided affordable access to many remote regions of the country. Internet access is also available to all universities through the LEARN Network and The Lanka Government Network is expected to link divisional secretariats to provincial, district and central government offices and ministries so as to information interchange and e-services while the re



engineering government program is expected to provide efficient citizen services through the use of ICT to all citizens in their village in their own language. E-Society grants for community initiatives and grants for capacity building are also part of the e-Sri Lanka initiative.

The ICT community through their professional bodies, academia and the trade associations are also working towards realizing the objectives of developing the ICT sector. The presence of most reputed multinational players of the industry as well as the excellent global reputation of our own Free and Open Source Software Community are proof of its success. There is however much room for a unified approach towards obtaining a greater share of the world software market for Sri Lanka in the years to come while the window of opportunity is still open. In this context the software industry, the public and private sector training institutions and the policy makers need to work to a common agenda with the leadership of the governments apex agency for ICT, optimizing and unifying the support extended by donor agencies.

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“ It is not the strongest species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones that are most responsive to change ”

Charles Darwin,
Origin of Species, 1859



Many ICT related competitions took place recently. National Schools Software Competition (NSSC) organised by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) was held at the UCSC in June. Ananda College, Colombo won the schools event and Buddhika Dissanayake from 'Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala won the individual event. Two teams each consisting of three students were selected from NSSC to take part at the International Schools Software (ISSC) competition organised by South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC) host country, the CSSL. This was held at UCSC in September.

The 16th International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) was held in Mexico in August. Sri Lanka won 1 Silver medal and 2 Bronze medals at the Olympiad, bringing the total medals won so far to 3 Gold, 6 Silver and 16 Bronze medals.

Judging of entries submitted to the National Best Quality Software Awards (NBQSA) 2006 organised by the British Computer Society Sri Lanka Section was held recently. Thirty six entries under twelve Commercial Awards Categories were part of it. Winner of the Tertiary Student Project category was chosen among 76 entries. Nuwan Senaratna from University of Colombo won this event. Judging of over 100 student projects submitted for the Young Computer Scientist (YCS) organised by the Sri Lanka Association for Software Industry (SLASI) also concluded recently. The overall winner is a student from Ananda College. YCS/NSSC and NBQSA winners would be recognised on 15th and 20th October, 2006 respectively. The winners of the NBQSA and YCS would take part at the Asia Pacific Information and Communication Technology Awards (APICTA) in November to be held in Macau.

IT quiz organised by USCS is currently being held around the country at district level. About 650 schools are taking part. The winners at district level would compete at provincial and national levels. ICT Week will be held from 9th to 15th October 2006. SEARCC and IITC conferences and Infotel exhibition is part of the IITC week.

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The Professional Development Centre (PDC) is an entity within the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) and serves as the primary provider of Industrial Training for undergraduate students. The undergraduates are placed on internships during their third year at the UCSC for a period of 6 months.

Industrial Training is an integral part of the Degree Programmes in Computer Science conducted by the UCSC. This enables us to provide the much needed industry exposure for the undergraduates, which is an essential part in Computer Science education to produce quality Computer Science graduates meeting the Industry standards.



Speechcrafters program Award Ceremony 2006

Last year, more than 35 companies have joined the PDC providing placements for UCSC undergraduates. The companies have the chance of addressing undergraduates at a pre-scheduled time, interview them and select successful people for training at their companies. Further, the companies have been voluntarily taking part in a series of guest lectures, through which the undergraduates are made aware of the role they have to play as professionals after they graduate. Through these lectures, the undergraduates are provided with a good orientation program and preparation before sending them to the Internship. They are clearly communicated of the objectives and skills to gain during the internship.

The companies are very happy with the UCSC undergraduates and the following is a statement made by the CEO of a leading IT company in Sri Lanka.



"With my understanding, I'm very happy with the UCSC students and their conduct in our company. They were a set of committed individuals who wanted to learn and I'm pleased with the progress they are going through so far. Initially I felt a great deal of misalignment from them about their awareness on what they want to achieve during internship and how they need to engage with a professional working environment. But it was very encouraging to see how they had been changing their attitude and approach with little mentoring and opportunities we have provided."

Apart from the industrial training, the PDC organizes a Speechcrafters Programme for the undergraduates with the aim of improving their soft skills that are much needed in the industry to get a "foot in the door" of their profession. The successful undergraduates are awarded a certificate from Toastmasters International.

There are many other opportunities of collaborative work towards this national service. Interested companies are welcome to join the UCSC-Industry link and take part in the Industrial Training Programme in January, 2007.

For further information, please contact Dr. Anuja Dharmaratna through atd@ucsc.cmb.ac.lk or Ms. Y a m u n a K u l a s e k e r a pdc@ucsc.cmb.ac.lk

IITC Workshops

Five IITC workshops will be held on the 14th and 15th of October @ the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) on Security Products, Computer Networks, Sensor Networks & its applications to National Security, e-Learning Experience and IPV6 Technical Overview (www.iitc.lk)



The UCSC Students' Union and its contribution to IT industry

With the pride of an eminent chronicle following us, the University of Colombo School of Computing thrives to be the best institution in IT education in modern day Sri Lanka. The quality of education and the superior standards ucsc have set in the academic field has blessed us with an unsurpassable reputation in the IT industry.

Keeping up with the institution's fame, the Students' Union of the UCSC has proven itself unconventional in the four years of its existence, standing apart from the much ill-famed 'Union' perspective. Being a responsible entity with a moral obligation towards the Sri Lankan community, we have set ourselves on a mission of distributing the IT knowledge we have, among the most inquisitive younger generation of our country.

The all-island "IT quiz" competition organized by the Students' Union marks the conception of yet another effort made by us to serve our own brothers and sisters. With the extension of the IT quiz competition, we have launched an IT magazine (IT Insight) to quench the knowledge thirst of the eager general public. The idea of creating a network among the schools, based upon IT requirements and we being in the middle, has really blossomed during the past few months and has emerged to be one of the most promising events undertaken by a group of university students.

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"Antharjala Sampath Bawithaya" the oldest live radio program related to Information Technology



Dynamic society @ UOC CompSoc

The Computer Science Society of the University of Colombo (CompSoc UOC) is a dynamic organization of enterprising individuals brought together by their common interest in Computer Science & Information Technology. Most of the activities of CompSoc are centered towards providing and channeling IT related services. In carrying out these activities, CompSoc works in harmony with the academic staff and students from all faculties. With a rich history spanning over two decades and boasting of some prominent alumni, CompSoc will continue to be a major influence in the student community.

CompSoc is one of the oldest and most active student societies of the University of Colombo. Our members are students with an interest in Computer Science and IT. Our mission is to enhance the IT knowledge of our students as well as the outside community. In order to facilitate this CompSoc regularly organize seminars, workshops and IT awareness programs on cutting-edge technology. Although these programs are catered at University students, occasionally CompSoc travels outside Colombo to cater to a wider audience.

The Radio program of CompSoc "Antharjala Sampath Bawithaya" is the oldest live radio program that is related to Information Technology. This radio program was first initiated in the year of 1997 to go with the many steps taken in behalf of the Information Technology year which was the year of 1998.

Few recent successful projects organized by CompSoc includes The Software Competition, "Blazing Innovation" & the Computer Camp "TechZone 2006" and "DotNET Launch" - the first in the history, that Microsoft VisualStudio was launched in a Sri Lankan University.

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Vision

Create new knowledge,
sustain a culture of
critical inquiry and foster
a spirit of service
and commitment
to the nation.

Mission

Producing
men and women
of the highest technical
competency
with high ethical
standards and
social accountability,
capable of creative,
analytical and
independent thinking,
contributing to
national development.



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